

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

ST LEONARDS
STAYS - ALL RIGHT!

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FRONT KEPT OUT OF BRICK LANE

Shrouded in secrecy and surrounded by 5,000 Police the National Front held their meeting in Shoreditch on Sunday 24 September. Their march ended in Curtain Road, in an apparently pre-arranged move when the police decided that it would be impossible to hold the rally where the Front wanted to, in Brick Lane, which had been occupied by several thousand anti-fascists, with strong delegations from the Bengali Youth Movement and many local left and anti-racist groups.

There is little doubt that the "fascists in blue" (the ones with the pointed hats on) could have let the Front hold their meeting where they liked. Their march was led by an arrow shaped formation of police, including 48 mounted policemen. They had riot shields available and there were several minibuses of their crack heavies, the Special Patrol Group. (SPG).

FISTS FLYING

The SPG had their usual day out earlier in the afternoon when they came screeching down the road. Out they poured with their fists flying and punched, kicked and pulled the peaceful demonstrators off the street.

As can be seen in our photographs, the police vastly outnumbered the demonstrators by about three to one. The situation could have been contained without the use of the SPG, but this is not the way the police operate.

Our reporter was just shouting for witnesses to some of the most brutal attacks when he was bundled against the back of a van and told "Any more of that and we'll have you for threatening behaviour". Knowing that complaints against the police are judged by the police, who tend not to find their own kind guilty, he shut up.

After this episode, the anti-racists moved between Shoreditch High Street and Bethnal Green Road, with no-one ever really knowing where the Front were and if they were coming through to Brick Lane or not. At one stage a loud-speaker announcement told the crowd that they would be passing in a few minutes, but of course, they never came. Most of the crowd then assembled at the top of Brick Lane and held a rally, addressed by speakers from the Hackney and Tower Hamlets Defence Committee and other organisations. It also emerged by this time that the stewards had known for some time that the Front were holding their meeting near their proposed headquarters. (See separate article for a report on this)

FRONT OUTNUMBERED

One of the reporters at last found the Front meeting by cutting through the back streets behind Liverpool Street Station. They were obviously hugely outnumbered by the police, who had at least five separate cordons between the Front and the anti-fascist stragglers in Shoreditch High Street. Our reporter heard the end of Webster's drivel, which was greeted with rounds of applause, and a chorus of God Save the Queen. Finally Webster told them that he was very proud because there had never been any violence on Front marches, and that he knew that the same would be true today, and please would they all disperse quietly, and make sure they went off to the west only. Then they all left, flanked still by hordes of the police, including the mounted division and three mini-buses of SPG. There were many well known faces in the crowd, including the usual bunch of Hackney's resident nutters.

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The Special Patrol Group - specially trained riot police - in action in Shoreditch High Street - warning HPP's reporter (against back of van) about his "threatening behaviour." photo Kevin Ward.

97 BUS IS AXED

HPP EXCLUSIVE

Hackney will lose its second bus service this year when the 97 route will be axed on 28 October. The 97, which runs between Northumberland Park in Tottenham and Liverpool Street, is a vital link, especially on the very busy stretch between Stamford Hill and Shoreditch. The "replacement" which London Transport has dreamed up has been immediately criticised as inadequate.

The decision to scrap the 97 is part of a major re-organisation of London bus routes by LT, forced on them by the Tory GLC's transport policies. This plan started last April with some other "adjustments" to the timetable, including the axing

of Hackney's 256 route. The re-organisation effectively means a 10% cut in the number of buses on the road. That news will gladden the hearts of passengers in areas like Hackney who sometimes have to wait 40 minutes for a bus already. In all, twenty routes in London are to be scrapped.

LT have told Hackney People's Press that the cuts do not mean a reduction of the total number of buses on the road. This is a lie. The 97 route, for instance, has six buses on the road all day, staffed by fourteen crew-duties. It runs from Stamford Hill garage. When it is scrapped these fourteen duties will be replaced by one extra duty on the 149 route (which covers much of the same route) and six extra duties on the extended 76, which will run on beyond Tottenham garage to Northumberland Park. That's very bad news for those people who use the already busy 149s. Even worse news for the poor sods in Northumberland Park whose service is being virtually completely scrapped.

Similar cuts take place on other busy routes in Hackney. Twenty-two duties are to be cut from the 253 route from Stamford Hill garage. Some of these will be transferred to Dalston garage, but not all.

London Transport also told

us that to improve the service they will be recruiting extra staff. But HPP already knows that drivers and conductors are being refused overtime on the present schedules - so where are they going to put new staff to work on reduced schedules?

The Campaign to Improve London Transport, which revealed these planned cuts, is fighting to restore the services on LT to the level before the Tory Bus Plan was introduced. They see the whole of public transport in London threatened by the GLC's attitude that transport is not a public service. The Tories' plan to increase road building and encourage the private car, both of which are potentially disastrous for an already overcrowded and polluted city. If public transport in London is to be saved it is obvious that workers and passengers must unite together and fight to keep the services.

It is possible, therefore, that there will be strike action by some garages when the cuts come into force on 28 October. Wandsworth garage has already had a number of one hour token stoppages, and another eight garages including Tottenham and Holloway have also struck at least once. So if your bus doesn't arrive on 28 October, don't swear. The bus workers are on strike to save their jobs, and our service.



ST LEONARDS SAYS: WE STAY OPEN

At 5 pm on Thursday 21 September, the staff at St Leonards Hospital Casualty Department were told that the unit would be closing for good at 9 pm that evening.

No-one could believe it. Even the hospital administrators were surprised. The District Nursing Officer had said that the Casualty would be closed while the engineers were on strike, but there seemed no reason for this as there were adequate supplies of linen and equipment. The workers at the hospital assumed that the District Management Committee wanted the hospital closed, and had either brought their plans forward, or else used the strike as an excuse for a dry run. This was confirmed when it was found that other Casualty Departments in the area had been told to monitor anything that should have gone to St Leonards. Even more suspicious was that no other hospital in London had been told to close completely even though all of them are affected by the engineers' strike.

The Consultant Surgeons at

St Leonards held a meeting that night and refused to let the Casualty close completely. Unfortunately, however, although the local Ambulance drivers supported the workers, the Ambulance Control would not authorise any ambulances to bring in patients. This effectively left the whole of the City and Hackney area with just

two working Casualty Departments, the Hackney Hospital in Homerton and Barts in Smithfield - five miles apart.

The following morning all the Shop Stewards in St Leonards held a meeting - for the first time for years. They called a mass meeting of all the hospital workers for that afternoon.

The mass meeting emphasised

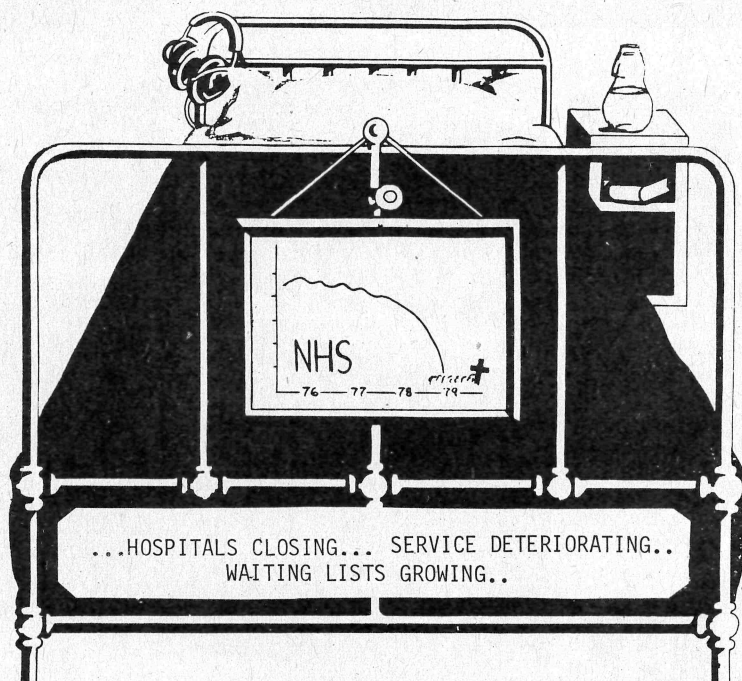
that any action should not scab on the engineers' strike. They are striking to get regrading after the maintenance men's award of a few weeks ago, which means that the differentials between the two grades have been removed. And the engineers' claim is for more than the Government's paltry 5% limit. The workers

felt that if the engineers won, then their chances of getting more than the £2 they are likely to be offered would be greatly improved.

Then the mass meeting overwhelmingly approved strike action, if the management refused to rotate the closure with Barts and the Hackney. And by 4 pm that afternoon the management had climbed down. So St Leonards Casualty is still open!

But the fight is not over. The new district plan proposes that St Leonards should be converted into a geriatric hospital in the next couple of years. So the Casualty Department is due to be closed anyway, still leaving only two Casualties open in the area. This attempted closure was clearly a trial run. The workers at St Leonards have shown that they won't accept the plan when it comes. They refuse to let their hospital - the only one in Dalston or Shoreditch - become another Bethnal Green.

Contact East London Health Workers for further details, tel 985 5210.



Local 'Person Unknown' out on bail

Trevor Dawton, "Person Unknown" arrested in Dalston and charged with five others for "conspiracy to cause explosions", was granted bail on 28th September.

The conditions of his bail are so severe that they deny him any chance of living as he would wish. Dawton will have to stay indoors between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. and report daily to the police. He has provided two sureties of £10,000 each. Dawton formerly studied at City of London Polytechnic and was hoping to start a new course at North London Polytechnic but will now be unable to do this.

Meanwhile the five other anarchists are still held in Brixton prison, where two of them, Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett, have been since May 24th. No explosions have been caused by the group and all the police have said they have taken from them are "weed-killer and electric wiring". There have also been charges

of "dishonestly handling air guns" (Mills and Bennett), "dishonest possession of a firearm" (Ladd), "four armed robberies of money and two armed robberies of firearms" (Carr) and "possession of various firearms" (Dawton and Stevenson).

The Anti Terrorist squad, responsible for the arrests, have come under heavy criticism, particularly from "Persons Unknown", the anarchist's defence group. They believe the Anti Terrorist squad have trumped up the charges because of the political views of those now held in order to keep the Anti Terrorist Squad in business. They have not arrested anyone as a result of recent explosions in left wing organisations, for example the bombing of the 'Peace News' building after threats from the fascist pro-Hitler 'Column 88' organisation. Little wonder Persons Unknown use the slogan "The Anti Terrorist squad are the Terrorist squad."

ABC TRIAL RESTARTS

There was a dramatic end to the first ABC Official Secrets Trial at the Old Bailey when the judge ordered the jury to be dismissed because there had been remarks about the jury foreman on the Russell Harty TV programme. The defendants, Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell, both journalists who live in Hackney and John Berry, an ex-soldier who lives in Haringey, now have to appear again in a new trial which begins as we go to press. They will also be appearing in front of a new judge because the original judge, Mr Justice Willis, then promptly suffered a mild heart attack.

The row about the jury occurred because the defence had demanded that the foreman, who had served in the Army's SAS regiment, should be removed. The judge refused to allow this and let the trial continue. When this fact was repeated on TV, he then realised that this might prejudice the outcome of the trial. Indeed it would have done. The foreman had apparently already made up his mind which way the result should go, almost from the first day. Having been thoroughly indoctrinated into the Official Secrets Act, he was hardly likely to think about acquittal. What

has not yet been answered is by what random coincidence an ex-SAS soldier got onto the jury. There are very few of them around - it's a very exclusive regiment, and it certainly does seem very suspicious that, purely at random, he should be among the twelve people chosen for the jury.



There will be however one crucial difference in the retrial. One of the charges, under Section 1, the spying clause, of the Official Secrets Act has been dropped. This was against Duncan Campbell, who had been accused of collecting information about defence communications. As the evidence in the first trial had largely consisted of a succession of RAF officers who were forced to admit that Campbell didn't seem to have broken the Act in his collection of the information, the prosecuting lawyer is said to have

refused to go ahead with this charge when the new trial opens.

This has given new impetus to the campaign to get all the charges dropped against the three defendants. The evidence against them, the tape recording of a conversation that the three had made on the first and only time that they all met together, is known to consist of basically the same kind of information as that that Campbell had collected previously. So why should that be an Official Secret? The answer is, that it isn't. It is merely that the security services and the rest of the secret agencies that operate in this country, with no kind of democratic control, are very scared that the public might find out the sort of things they are up to. Recent publicity about the work of the CIA and the FBI in America has made them look ridiculous, and made the US Congress take more steps to control what they do there. Who's to doubt that the British secret services get up to the same wasteful and destructive dirty tricks over here? If ABC are acquitted it will be a great victory for the right of the people to know what the State does with our money.

ANOTHER 'HORRIBLE' CUT IN HACKNEY

THE following piece appeared in the Evening News on 20 September.

"At great expense, Freddie Mercury and Roger Taylor of Queen have flown a London hairdresser to Nice, where they are recording a new album...

Meanwhile, today's cheap barber tip comes from Mr J. Tighe of Beanacre Close, Hackney Wick. He recommends John's Hairdresser at 379 Hackney Road, Hackney, where they give a short back and sides for just 60p and shampoo for 40p. Sounds horrible to me but Mr Tighe wins a cut, shampoo and shave at Austin Reed in Regent Street."

PREFAB PROTEST

On Monday 2 October a delegation of tenants from the prefabricated houses in Maidstone Street and Audrey Street which are behind Queen Elizabeth Hospital met the Housing Development Committee.

In his statement Mr Galbally, chairperson of the tenants, said that general maintenance of the area was not being done, and that house repairs are not consistently done. In addition the houses are very noisy, lack privacy and are badly insulated so that they are hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. The houses, or mobile homes as they could be called, originally had a life of five years but have been up for fifteen years.

. DANGEROUS

The houses are not just in bad repair, they are also dangerous.

The properties are not secure and the doors are not strong enough to prevent break-ins. Leaky roofs have made electrical fittings unsafe, sewers are inadequate and drains are frequently blocked causing upsurge of excreta in people's homes.

ASBESTOS

The potentially most dangerous aspect of the houses is that similar houses in Birmingham are made of asbestos. If this is the case with these houses then the tenants have been living in a cancer-producing death trap for the last fifteen years.

LONG WAIT

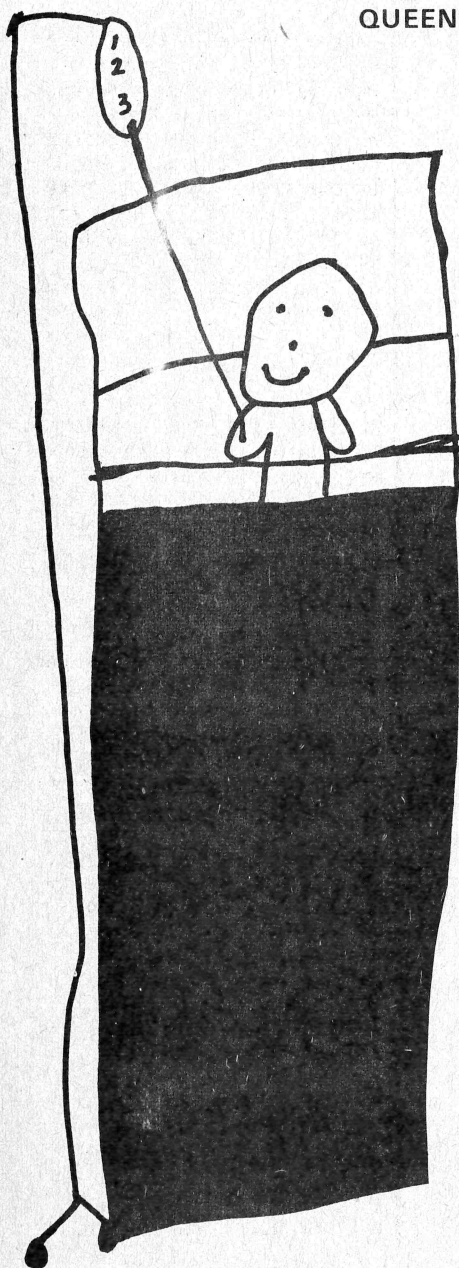
Many of the tenants have been waiting for rehousing for many years and it seems crazy that, as neighbouring Boston Street is being cleared for redevelopment, there are no plans to rehouse the tenants in Maidstone Street. We hope that by their demonstration they will force the Council into taking action soon to improve their conditions.



Maidstone Street prefabs - the badly made-up road is typical of the lack of interest of the Council in these forgotten areas.
photo Ernie Greenwood

voluntary work at the hospitals for sick children

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL
FOR CHILDREN
Hackney Road
London E2 8PS



There are a variety of jobs for those who prefer to play a more supportive role in assisting staff and manning information stalls.

Our busy out-patients canteen and week-end tea-bars always need friendly volunteers to serve and prepare food.

We also need volunteers to be on call for emergency services - driving, escort work and interpreting. If you speak a foreign language fluently you could be a great help to us!

For more information please contact the Voluntary Help dept, tel 405 9200, ext 309.

THE HOSPITAL
FOR SICK CHILDREN
Great Ormond Street
London WC1N 3JH

Social work strike may still spread

The striking Tower Hamlets social workers are still defiant, six weeks after their dispute began. And it seems unclear still whether Hackney's social workers will join them, as another full departmental meeting is being held as we go to press.

In Tower Hamlets the workers are picketing the Town Hall and all the social services offices. Because of the co-operation of other union members Tower Hamlets Council is finding itself without mail being delivered or collected and without hot water or heating as the fuel oil drivers refused to cross the picket line.

The Council is understood currently to be considering whether to make a further offer. NALGO, the social workers' union, is fighting for the workers to be allowed the right to negotiate their own wages individually and only if Tower Hamlets make an offer in excess of the one proposed originally by the Greater London Whitley Council, which used to negotiate the claims, will the workers accept.

In Hackney the situation is complicated by the offer by the Council to evaluate all the social workers' jobs again. It is confused at present whether this offer is, in fact, a local agreement. It seems unlikely

that it would count as that, and the mood amongst Hackney's social workers is that job evaluation would not be a step forward in the negotiation of a new pay claim. So it is still possible that the NALGO departmental meeting will recommend that a postal ballot be held of all members with a view to proposing industrial action. If this is successful, there could still be a strike before Christmas.

There was a one-day stoppage in Hackney on Wednesday, 27 September in support of the striking workers in Tower Hamlets and some other London boroughs. A large contingent from Hackney went on a protest march through the centre of London.

shorts

VERY CROSS

If you wear a women's liberation badge you should contact your lawyer at once. The National Abortion Campaign has just received a letter from the International Red Cross (addressed to "Dear Sirs") concerning one of the campaign's badges.

It shows the women's symbol - a red circle above a red cross - and (you've guessed) - "This could be regarded as a contravention of the Geneva

Convention, which makes it illegal to use the designation or emblem of the Red Cross."

It's unlawful, apparently, even if the cross is only part of the design. The Red Cross wants confirmation from NAC that it won't happen again, so that it can reassure the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence is responsible for protecting the emblem. Aghast at the irresponsible use of the Red Cross, we hereby demand the removal of all Union Jacks.

PHONEY FAULT

A friend of the local alternative paper in

Brighton, the Brighton Voice, told them of the recent arrival of sixty extra engineers to the local telephone exchange. Officially they were there to deal with a large breakdown, but the friend could find no trace of it.

Shortly after, another friend put through a phone call to somebody at the local contact address of the ABC Defence Campaign. Without the phone ringing at all, the caller could hear everything in the house within earshot of the phone. Just a coincidence?

PEOPLES NEWS SERVICE.

SILICON CHIPS AND OUR FUTURE

From the beginning of October through to December there will be a series of six meetings organised by Hackney Workers' Educational Association on the subject of Microchips: Silicon Electronics and Society.

The WEA have decided to hold the course because microchips, like automation, are a vital new development in technology and it is important that people know what they are and the potential they have to change society.

WHAT IS A SILICON CHIP?

A silicon chip is a small piece of silicon between a twentieth and a quarter of an inch square and less than a hundredth of an inch thick, which can contain anything between 3 and 100,000 transistors. These chips are cheaper, simpler to produce and more reliable

than conventional transistors. The result can be seen in the cost of producing, for example, television sets. A black and white T.V. still costs only about the same in

money terms as it did 25 years ago and is a better quality set, all due to the introduction of silicon chips.

TV sets are cheaper because fewer working hours are needed to make them and to keep them working. In addition, the use of the chips can make economic the automation of jobs which formerly needed to be done by people.

SHORTER WORKING WEEK

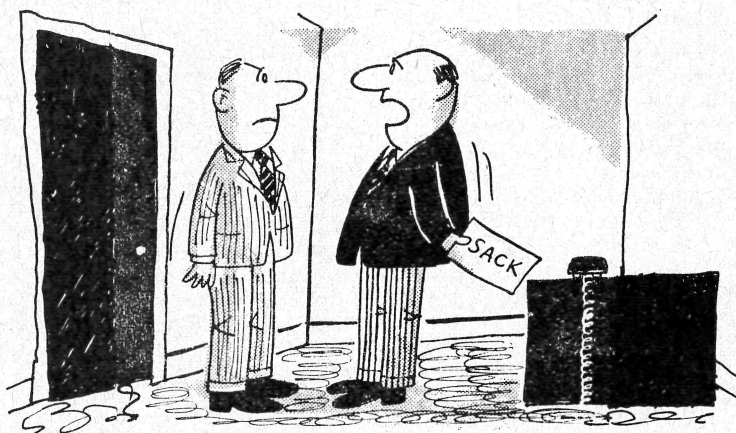
This means that we could all work fewer hours and still get the same wages. But at the moment the average working week is 44 hours while there are 1½ million on the dole. Cutting the working week with no loss of pay would benefit only the workers and not the bosses - so instead they will want to cut the workforce.

The battle for a shorter week with no loss of pay against the bosses' wish to squeeze more profit out of less workers will continue as long as there are bosses. The benefits of improved

productivity will be enjoyed by all of us only when we tell the bosses that we can manage without them. But that lies in the future ... what can we do now?

The outcome of the silicon chip revolution is likely to be the same as that of other technological advances, like automation, to make more profit for the few.

The only solution is to fight for no redundancies and for a shorter working week with no loss of pay.



"You've heard of the advantages of this new micro-technology!"

Morning Star

The Workers' Educational Association course will investigate all the issues involved in the microchip revolution, from the possibility of producing a computer in every home to us all having a shorter working week.

For more information phone Dave Davies on 986 7010 (home) or 388 4461 (work).

HACKNEY TO HAVE OWN NATURE RESERVE?

Hackney Friends of the Earth are hoping to persuade the Council to turn Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington into a nature reserve.

Originally the cemetery consisted of a private house and 25 acres of farmland, orchard, pleasure gardens and a bowling green which belonged to Sir Thomas Abney, Lord Mayor of London, at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

It eventually was bought by the Abney Park Cemetery Company, which also took part of the adjacent Fleetwood House, and in 1840 a total area of 30 acres was opened as a cemetery.

Two years before this the existing chapel was built.

OVERGROWN

The site is currently overgrown due to several years lack of maintenance. Following the Cemetery Company's liquidation the Council is trying to buy it. Most of the main paths have been cleared and access is now little problem. However many large poplar trees which overhang the paths are quickly declining and need urgent tree surgery to make them safe. If any have to be felled, then they will be replaced, as they are all subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

UNIQUE

In general, the cemetery is a unique wild-life area and further cleaning up should only be of a limited nature. FoE want just the remaining paths to be cleared and swathes of just one or two metres left on each side. They also want only self-sewn sycamores to be removed, and clearance of the areas around the better known graves.

This treatment is also advised for what remains of the chapel. The building itself is quickly falling into a hazardous condition, and it should be a priority of the council to make it safe - by removing the roof and more dangerous sections and turning it into a folly.

The Victorian Society has listed Abney Park with Highgate and Nunhead as being one of the foremost Victorian cemeteries.

FoE have informed the council of these ideas, and at present is engaged in a flora and fauna survey.

MURDERING A MANIFESTO

The fight is on to save the Hackney Labour Party's programme. The new Council took office in May having won the election on a bright new manifesto "Labour Cares", and immediately resolved that the Council officers should produce a detailed programme with costings for the manifesto proposals.

The officers have now produced their report, and it is to be discussed at a "Leaders Panel" meeting on 17 October with all the Councillors and senior officers present. It is likely that there will be considerable opposition to the programme - because it would, the officers say, be very expensive to implement. They say that the whole programme would mean a 47½% increase in the rates.

But there are some serious flaws already shown in the officers' report. For instance, the Government gives the Council a "Rate Support Grant" based on the Council's expenditure on the year before. Thus, if the Council puts the rates up by a large amount in one

year, the next it will receive a massive amount extra from central Government. Of course, a timid council is unlikely to take the first step of putting up the rates in the first place, because they know that it could be an unpopular move. What the Council should do is to have the courage of its Labour convictions and say that they will take the bold step of implementing the proposals in its manifesto.

However, is this likely?

The new Broad Left group are in a minority on the Council. There will certainly be opposition from some of the right-wing old guard to a rate increase of any kind. But they all agreed on the manifesto before the election - it remains to be seen if they will agree afterwards. We'll know on 17 October.

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Next month HPP will carry a Tong report on the Labour Party, and the new look of the Council. It may even be interesting. Don't miss it!

HOUSING IN ACTION?

"I came here looking for a direction" said a bemused delegate from Manchester to a chorus of applause and cheers at the final plenary session of the Housing Action Convention, held at Sheffield Poly on the weekend of September 8-10. The implication was that the convention had not been able to help him in this particular quest, but most delegates would agree that this was not the main purpose of the weekend, and that in most other respects it had proved to be a useful and successful gathering - the largest and most representative assembly of radical housing groups and activists to meet for some years - some 250 people from over 120 different groups.

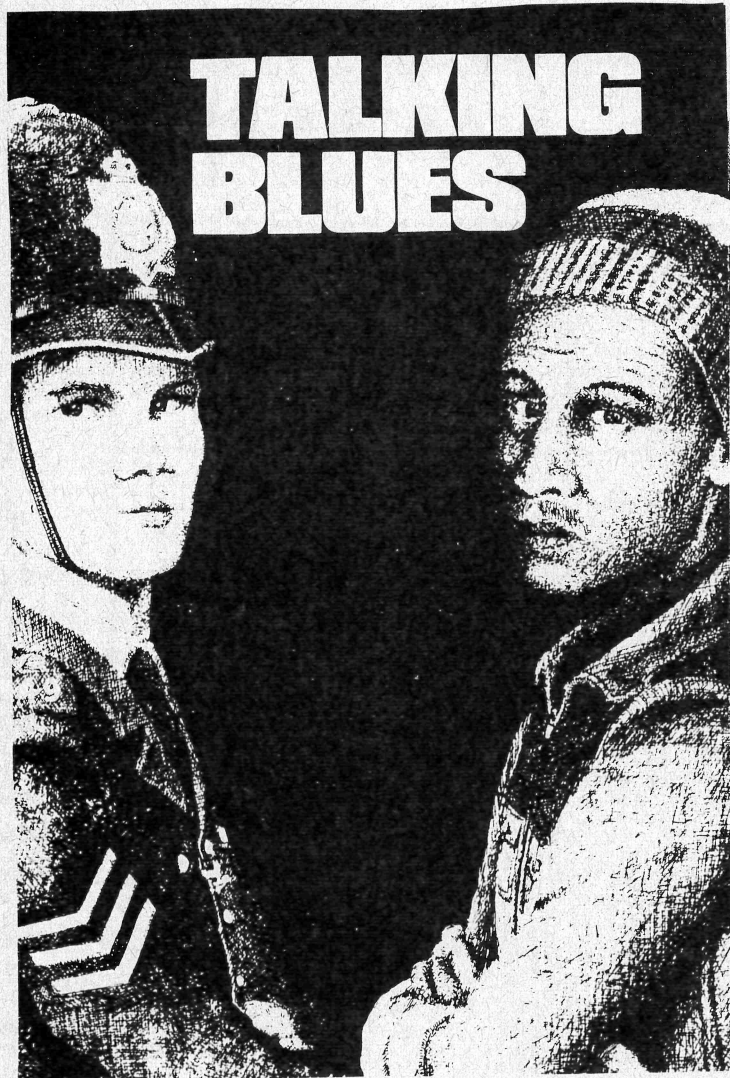
Looking back, it is apparent that much of the most valuable work took place in the discussion groups, workshop sessions and small meetings which dominated the weekend. A total of thirty to forty different small sessions dealt in detail with many of the issues most vital to the housing struggle today - homelessness, government legislation, rights to repairs, short life housing, squatting, empty property, single person housing, the role of housing associations and co-ops and much more besides.

Many positive proposals for

action came out of these sessions: demands that the Homeless Persons Act be extended to cover all homeless people and that a mandatory Code of Guidance be issued to local authorities; that the Co-operative Housing Agency be placed under the control of primary co-ops; that housing associations be made accountable to the local community and be put under the control of their tenants, that they come under the Rent Acts and that national housing associations be dismantled. (Brief, but fuller, reports of these sessions are available from the Self Help Housing Resource Library, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5. Tel. 607 2789 ext. 5027).

One product of the convention was the formation of sub-networks of groups and individuals organised on regional or common interest lines. In addition the main plenary session issued several broad statements on policy and organisational matters, and agreed upon a one-day follow up conference (HAC2!) to be held at Action Space, Chenies street, London WC1 at 11 am-6 pm on Saturday, November 25.

If you want to know what's happening locally with these campaigns contact Hackney Housing Action Group c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8



"Talking Blues" is a new publication by All Faiths For One Race, a religious group set up to fight racism in the Birmingham area. The book is a collection of interviews with members of the Black community in Birmingham. Handsworth, like Hackney, is one of the major

areas of West Indian settlement and like West Indian youth everywhere the people interviewed live in constant fear of being stopped and questioned by the police, despite the fact that Handsworth has one of the lowest levels of recorded crime in the area, tenth out of the

twelve police divisions in Birmingham.

Cynthia, one of the many young people interviewed by the writer, is studying for 'A' levels at technical college. Here are some of her thoughts on relationships between the black community and the police.

"One night my boyfriend was going home from my house and it so happened that it was his birthday and I had bought him an expensive razor. He also had several other presents. After getting the midnight bus he was walking home on the road that he lives on. A police car drew up and they stopped him and wanted to know where he was going. He told them he was going home. They wanted to know what he had in his hands and what he was doing out so late. The reply was that he was going home and in his hands were the presents from his girlfriend. But they couldn't have believed him because they kept on asking him where he got it from. Eventually they took him down to the police station and he was there for three hours before they phoned me up and asked me had he been at my house that night, and did he have anything with him when he left and I told him that I bought him a shaver.

POLICE BRUTALITY

"Anyway the next morning I saw him and the whole of his face was full of bruises and he got marks all over his body; apparently they beat him up because they didn't believe that the razor was a birthday present and kept insisting that maybe he stole it. When he

kept saying that it was a birthday present, they kept hitting him. It is this sort of thing that brings the conclusion that the police are racist."

All the people interviewed were asked to give their views on the relationship between Black youths and the police. More than one-third of the people spoken to recounted at least one incident of police harassment or brutality which they had experienced themselves. Half of those interviewed blamed racist tendencies in society as a whole as being responsible for focussing police attention on Blacks.

PARENTS' VIEWS

One parent reflected the views of a lot of West Indian parents when he said "Years ago when we used to hear about the police attacking Black youth, going into youth clubs and harassing them arresting them for the least provocation we could not believe it. We believed that the youths were making it all up. But after years of experience we have come to realise that it is true, that the police are setting out to terrorise our children. It is becoming difficult even to sleep at nights without being afraid of a knock at the door or a telephone call to say that your son is in jail or your daughter has been picked up at some youth club."

There is also a section called quite simply "The Church". This is particularly necessary as the Church is the only community organisation to which large numbers of West Indians belong. It is estimated

that 25% of West Indians in Birmingham go to Church and of the six clergy interviewed all quote instances of police harassment of black young people and demand that the police must have training in understanding West Indian culture. (I can think of a lot of Hackney clergy who could also quote instances of harassment and who demand better training for the police.)

In the book Pastor Blissit of the Bethel Church of God says "We want to say that the youths are like a time bomb and they are ticking away and sooner or later there is going to be an explosion. They leave school and it seems to me as though

they are not wanted. Quite often, a job is advertised - they are first at the spot and as soon as they get there they are told that the job is gone. This was the case with my own children."

Perhaps the most hopeful statement and the solution to racism and police harassment comes from Mr A, the parent quoted earlier. "I believe that the situation can still be changed. I believe we can still create conditions where the state starts to recognise us and starts to realise that we are being brutalised and harassed."

"That is our task. We must start to get together with our children, get together with other parents and build something that will be effective enough to have a real voice in all the areas that now control our lives."

"Talking Blues" is published by AFFOR, 1 Finch Road, Birmingham 19. Available from Centerprise, price 60p.

FRANK SUTCLIFFE: 'catching passing shadows'

Frank Sutcliffe was born at Headingley, Yorkshire, in 1853. His family had moved to Whitby in 1870 and the only way he could make a living was as a portrait photographer. Unfortunately for him there were already four photographers working in the small town and he was unable for a long time to find suitable premises. He eventually bought a small studio by the harbour and began to make money by doing 'bread and butter' work - portraits. Over the years he took hundreds of photographs of babies, a most difficult subject. He even developed a technique to overcome the difficulties of photographing babies. Put the baby on the floor and, '... if the baby has learned the gentle art of crawling, we tie it to the table leg'.

It was this work which enabled Sutcliffe to move into a fine new studio and formed the basis for the work for which he was to become internationally known.

He photographed Whitby just before its decline as a major port in Britain.

He became well known in Whitby and became friendly with the people who were to be a favourite subject of his camera. At a time when

much photography strove to imitate painting Sutcliffe used the camera as a tool to record the changing life of Whitby.

"There are many things to be seen today which are not likely to be visible in ten years time, except in museums; some will not even get into museums ... Bathing machines, once common on our shores, are being sold as henhouses. Sailing ships, or windjammers, are getting scarcer and scarcer; even boats rowed with oars are giving place to petrol-driven ones. The traveller tinker, sitting on the ground as he mends the farmhouse keettle, the pedlar with his pack, the scissors grinder, the pot hawker, the village blacksmith, the professional rat and mole catchers and many other rural professors, are dying out, leaving their shoes to none. If our cameras do not catch these passing shadows they will soon be forgotten."

Frank Sutcliffe captured all the shadows faithfully, and with a clarity guaranteed to capture the imagination of all those who see his pictures and which incidentally demonstrates that technically, photography has hardly advanced at all during this century.



An exhibition of late Victorian photographs of life in Whitby in North Yorkshire taken by Frank Sutcliffe is on at Centerprise until 14 October.

PUB REVIEW

PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes
N.16

Is it impossible to provide both a decent pint and good music in the same pub? It seems that it is, and 'The Pegasus' can serve up the music okay, but certainly not the drink. Why pubs and clubs persist in offering pints of gnat's piss to consume with their music when the tide of real ale is sweeping across most of London - rather than the Thames - beats me. If you can make do with Kronenborg lager instead then you could do worse than visit 'The Pegasus'.

The pub is generally free during the week and usually 50p at weekends depending on who's playing (see Time Out or Melody Maker - details for October unavailable at time of going to press). Several bands just beginning to gain popularity have been featured there recently and are worth catching before they start charging more at larger venues - for example The Monos and Zaine Griff.

That said, 'The Pegasus' is very small - the stage is about as big as the area for the crowd. At least that covers up to some extent for the embarrassingly small congregations that occasionally do/do not attend this local music pub.

HACKNEY

AMNESTY

GROUP

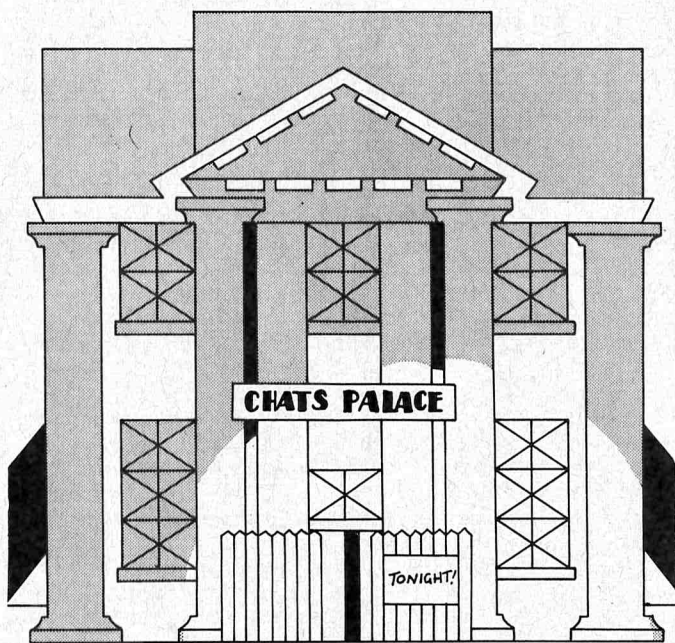
STARTS

Hackney group of Amnesty International was inaugurated at Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove on 12 September.

The group will be an 'Action group' at first, taking part in the various campaigns organised by Amnesty International and getting local publicity for Amnesty's work to secure the release of prisoners of conscience in all countries of the world - East, West and the Third World. Later, when the group is consolidated, it is hoped to 'adopt' prisoners in different countries.

The next meeting is fixed for Tuesday, 17 October at Friendship House (off Reading Lane, next to the Town Hall), when plans will be made to participate in the campaign for prisoners in El Salvador and future campaigns for those in Romania and other countries.

For more details, contact the Convener, the Rev Gualter de Mello, Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.



Chat's Palace, Homerton's Community Centre in Brooksby's Walk, E9, has opened its first theatre season with a series of one night stands by fringe companies.

The season began with the all-woman Cunning Stunts Company followed by Mutable Theatre's senior citizen's show "Crumbs". Yet to come are Threepenny Theatre, Trashed 'Fundation' Show, Clapperclaw, Free Form, Covent Garden Community Theatre, Chats Palace Theatre Workshop and Belt and Braces, who finish the season with two nights on 10 and 11 November. East London has few theatre

venues compared with the rest of the Greater London Area and Chats Palace is working towards redressing the balance and hopes to be able to offer the community regular access to contemporary theatre and to shows they would otherwise have to travel long distances to see. The current season is supported by the Greater London Arts Association.

As well as theatre, Chats Palace offers music hall on the first Saturday of every month, theatre workshops for children and adults and music nights.

At present the building is

FRIDAY NIGHT at the PALACE

OCT 13th Clapperclaw	OCT 20th Free Form "FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY"	OCT 27th Chats Palace Theatre Workshop "RUFFIAN ON THE STAIR"
NOV 3rd Covent Garden Community Theatre "P.M. I LOVE YOU"	NOV 10th & 11th Belt and Braces "RED ROCK REVUE"	All performances start at 8:00pm except for the Mutable Theatre (7:30) For details ring 986 6714

in the final stages of renovation under the Job Creation Programme and will be fully operational as a Community Centre at the beginning of November when several new projects will be put in motion, including workshops for silk screen printing, photography and film, classes in barge painting techniques, Sunday lunchtime jazz sessions and folk nights.

Starting soon are fire-show workshops leading up to Bonfire Night and pantomime workshops leading up to Free Form's Christmas Pantomime. Those interested should contact Chats Palace for details.

In the New Year, the Senior Citizens luncheon club and an under fives club will open. From November, when the building is completed, Chats Palace will open every Saturday as a coffee bar and there will be exhibitions by local artists, art groups and photographers. Members of the Chats Palace club will be entitled to use all the facilities including the licenced bar. Membership of the club is 20p per annum and it costs 80p to join the mailing list.

For details of any of the above, telephone 986 6714.

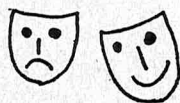
Theatre at Stratford

The Autumn Programme at the THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD comprises:

26 September-21 October
Tuesdays to Saturdays 8pm

Wednesday matinee 2.30 pm
SNAPSHOTS
A play with music by Rony Robinson

The story of Liz, a girl who doesn't want to grow up, at a time when there are millions out of work, especially young people. The police and national press are calling for a return to law and order, discipline and religion, while walls everywhere are scrawled with fascist slogans and there is fighting in the streets of London's East End. Not the best time for dreams but Liz is determined to hold on to hers.



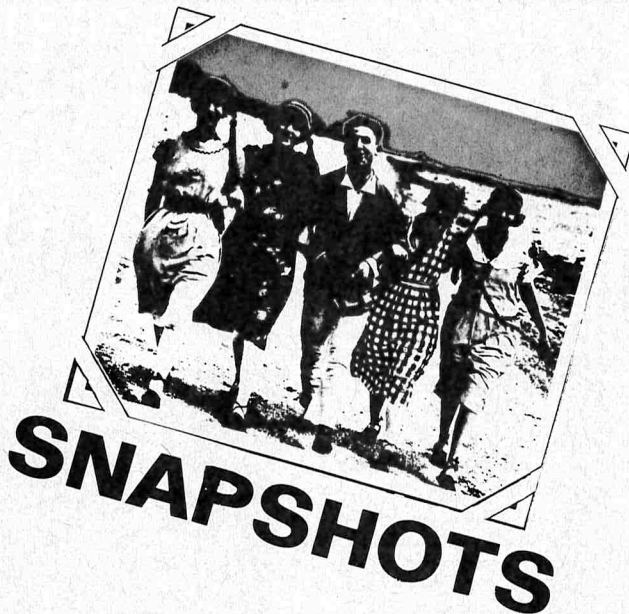
THE FOOTBALL APPRENTICES
A new play by David Holman

1 November-2 December
Tuesdays to Saturdays 8 pm
(except 1 November 7.30 pm)
Wednesday matinee 2.30 pm

The golden goal is a life in professional football. For the boys who get signed by a

club, that goal is in sight and even cleaning boots between training sessions is OK. Surrounded by trainers, coaches, managers and landladies, football gives them all they need. Until their eighteenth birthday comes round, then it is Professional Forms... or they have to find a new life. This new play by David Holman, author of "DIG FOR VICTORY", tells the story of apprentices at an East London football club, featuring local schoolboys from the Theatre Royal's Youth Drama Workshop.

Theatre Royal
Gerry Raffles Square, E15.
(by Stratford Tube Station)



OTHER EVENTS

Friday 6 October: Centerprise, 8pm. South Africa Today: film.

Wednesday 11 October: Queens Head, Green Lanes, N8. (near Turnpike Lane tube.) Benefit for ABC Campaign. £1.50 (£1 unwaged). The Inmates plus Khan's Villains plus Leyton Buzzards plus disco. 8 till late.

Friday 13 October: Centerprise. It's a Nac out. Play about abortion by Haringay Mobile Theatre.

Friday 20 October: Centerprise. Hackney's past. Talk.

Friday 27 October: Centerprise. Sing-song with Hackney Music Workshop.

HOW TO PICKLE ONIONS

Pickled Onions in Spiced Vinegar

Cover the unpeeled onions in brine (Use 4 oz salt to every 2 pints water.) After twelve hours skin them and soak again in fresh brine, for two to three days. Keep a plate over them so they stay submerged. Drain and pack in jars with spiced vinegar to cover. Ready to eat in two to three months.

Spiced Vinegar

Tie the following in a piece of muslin: cinnamon stick slivers of mace 8 allspice berries 6 cloves 6 peppercorns ½ tsp mustard seed Add the following if liked: chilli ginger garlic Put 2 pints vinegar and spices into an ovenproof jug or bowl and cover with plate. Place this in a saucepan of water and bring the water to the boil. Remove from heat. Leave whole thing to cool for 2 hours, by which time the spices will have infused into the vinegar. Then remove bag of spices.

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.
For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E8.
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP

Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM

East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

Women

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkhome Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

1 Cazenove Road, N16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP

Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/6351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY

Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

THE BIRTH CENTRE

188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP

c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP

Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

Advice



Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL

128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD

Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

SNAGS

102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

ALLEN ROAD

12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

245 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 985 5244.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems.

THE FAMILY CENTRE

50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE

302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU

Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS. See Community Groups listing on this page.

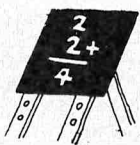
For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?

EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Education



SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

83 Eleanor Road, E8.
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:
Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.
Pam Lorenz, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.
Sue Grandfield, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 254 7763
Mr G.L. Harding, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street N1. 739 6981.
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.
Ms J Hewes, Highbury Manor AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4. 226 9190.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street N1. 739 5431.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES

Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney at:

FAMILY CENTRE, 50 Rectory Road, N16.

Thursdays 10.30-12.30pm.

LOWER CLAPTON HEALTH CENTRE, Lower Clapton Rd, E5.

Wed and Fri 1.00-2.30pm.

THE FACTORY, Matthias Road, N1.

Wed and Fri 9.30-10.30am.

MOTHERS HOSPITAL, Lower Clapton Road, E5.

Mon and Wed 1.00-3.00pm.

SOMERFORD GROVE HEALTH CENTRE, Somerford Gr, N16.

Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE, Homerton Road, E9.

Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE CENTRE, 129 Newington Gn Rd, N1.

Mon and Wed 7.30-9.00pm.

GAYHURST SCHOOL, Gayhurst Road, E8.

Wednesdays 4.00-6.00pm.

For further information contact Sabrina Aaronovitch at the Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16. 254 1193.

Political Groups



HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY

HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON

Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY

YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH

Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bletchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.

HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:

for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY CENTRAL

Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.

HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:

for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Meets weekly. All young people welcome.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY

Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.

HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP

Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

LONDON WORKERS GROUP

For independent militants, working anarchists, and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

ANARCHY COLLECTIVE

Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP

c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION

Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING

Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

HACKNEY GROUP
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT

Campaigns on third world issues, especially against the Arms Trade to these countries.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER

191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

FOOD FOR ALL

3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road.

Men

DALSTON MEN'S GROUP

Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP

Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE

19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

Music and Broadcasts



ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP

Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free. The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO

Programme schedule:
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows
5pm-7pm Soul Show
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement (local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext. 115.

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. in Centreprise.

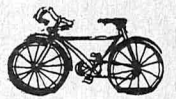
HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE

112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

Transport



HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE

Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hackney House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP

Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

Gays

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS

Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

GAY SWITCHBOARD

Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)

East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

SMALL ADS

If you're poor, or a good cause, HPP will advertise your wants, or needs, or find you a flat, or publicise your meetings FOR FREE! Just send us your ad - by 20 October - for the next issue.

Single woman, aged 33, non-smoker, recently moved to Hackney to take up permanent appointment, seeks quiet room. Willing to share facilities but own room quiet enough for evening study (day release) essential. Self-catering preferred, but would consider lodgings. Box P, Hackney People's Press, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Woman wanted to work with woman plumber. Some practical experience preferable but not essential. Regular work possible if there were two of us. Please contact in writing. Miriam, 174 Lansdowne Drive, E8.

Hackney People's Press Duplicating. Need some duplicating done or a photostencil cut? Available anytime. Paper £1.75 a ream, photostencils 35p each. Useful for emergencies. Phone 254 1306 and ask for Chris.

Any spare jumble? HPP is having a jumble sale soon. See next issue for details. If you've got any spare jumble then please ring 249 0311 or 254 1306.

WANTED: room in flat or house for guy, 23. Max £12 per week rent. Please contact Box Q, Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

NEW NF HEADQUARTERS MEETS LOCAL RESISTANCE

The movement of the National Front into a new headquarters in Hackney last month is seen by many as a further attempt to aggravate the already difficult position of the local immigrant community. The National Front are now occupying a former warehouse, at 73 Great Eastern Street, less than half a mile from Brick Lane. Acquired by Front supporters who formed themselves into 'National Front Properties' (according to Martin Webster, their national organiser) the building was then sub-leased to Leachouse Ltd, a company allegedly in the warehouse business. Leachouse are, however, going to print National Front News and other Front propaganda put out by Albion Press. John Tyndall, NF chairman, is the owner of Albion Press.

COUNCIL OPPOSITION

Hackney Borough Council has stated its opposition to the Front's new headquarters, but they claim there are only limited means of getting them out. Bob Masters, chairman of Planning

and Highways Committee has said that if the NF put in a planning application they will deal with it as they would anybody else's.

One possible way of refusing the Front permission to use the HQ would be on the grounds that they are using their premises for purposes contrary to what the area is designated for. The Great Eastern Street area is labelled for industrial and not office use. So if the Front use the building as headquarters and not just as a printing shop they may be refused permission on this point.

Patrick Kodikara, Hackney and Tower Hamlets Defence Committee chairman and chairman of Hackney Commission for Racial Equality has told HPP that Hackney Council will use every means to get the Front out - legally. But they cannot take into account the social considerations, although he agrees the Front's presence in Shoreditch is bad for local relations. It is a matter of trying to determine if the use of the building has changed and then

overruling any Front request for planning permission if this is so.

INCONSPICUOUS BUILDING

Few people live in the area immediately surrounding the building, which is inconspicuous and is not as yet surrounded by barbed wire, cameras, or any of the other paraphernalia the NF are likely to want for their security. Demonstrations of people in even the nearby residential areas, such as Brick Lane, against the NF presence are not likely to be given a great deal of regard by Hackney Council as this is not part of the grounds on which the NF could be removed from the warehouse.

The most likely effective form of opposition to the Front's HQ could come from Trades Unionists in the area. Possible tactics are the boycotting of the building by dustmen and postal workers to isolate them. Already approaches are being made to the relevant National Union of Public Employees and Postal Worker Union branches.

COUNCIL DISRUPTED

The National Front made their second appearance in a week when a number turned up in the public gallery at the September meeting of Hackney Council. A special meeting of the Council had been called to debate an emergency resolution about the National Front, after it had been revealed that they intended to move their offices to Great Eastern Street in Shoreditch. Not surprisingly, there was much fine rhetoric from the floor about the necessity for fighting the Front whenever they appeared, all of which was punctuated by heckling from the fifteen or so fascists in the gallery. They reserved most of their vituperation for Patrick Kodikara, who was continually taunted with being a "black racist". The motion was passed unanimously, with the single Tory, Lobenstein, for once voting with the Labour members, and the Council resolved to send a copy of the motion to Home Secretary Merlyn Rees.

Later on, in the main Council meeting, there was a stormy scene during a brief debate about the Council's decision

to give ten units of Council housing accommodation to refugees from oppression in Latin America, chiefly Chile and Argentina. Miles Leggett, the right-wing councillor for Queensbridge ward, said that he thought priority should be given to families already on Hackney's waiting list. This was the excuse the Front had been waiting for. There were by now about thirty of them in the balcony and they got to their feet and screamed abuse at the Council chamber, pointing at the people down below them and shouting things like "We'll get you!". Some even looked as though they might try and jump over the gallery rail but contented themselves with throwing leaflets over instead. They also unfurled a banner which read "National Front says charity begins at home." After five minutes or so, they were all escorted out to the steady chant of "Nazis out! Nazis out!" Leggett was quite chastened by the experience and grovelled an apology, while Gerry Ross and other councillors threatened action against him.



Police and anti-fascist demonstrators waiting for the pubs to open after a tiring day. One policeman is just asking a young person along for a drink. photo Kevin Ward.

Is anyone there?

Who we are

Hackney People's Press is produced monthly by a group of about ten local people, who mainly have full-time jobs elsewhere. We have no editor, no commercial advertising and no party political backing. We produce HPP because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative newspaper, free from bias and pressure.

What we want to do

We are all very conscious of the limitations of the paper that we are now producing. It's expensive, it can be out of touch, it only comes out once a month. We want to make HPP a bigger and better newspaper. We want it to come out fort-

nightly, and perhaps, one day, weekly. But to do this we need your help.

And to expand the paper the thing we need most is money. (Surprise! Surprise!) We want to buy our own typesetting equipment and even a second-hand machine will cost us at least £500. We are trying to get our own premises and installing a phone there will cost £50. We urgently need new supplies of Letraset for headlines which will cost about £20. So - we have opened a new bank deposit account, our Capital Fund. And we are appealing to our readers to help fill it. We are organising a jumble sale and a benefit to swell our coffers but, more immediately, if you feel Hackney needs an alternative newspaper, then

please send us some money now.

The money we put in our Capital Fund will only be used for the future expansion of the paper, not for paying our month-to-month printing costs.

HPP is YOUR paper. No-one owns it, we have no editor. All our decisions are taken collectively by the people who work on the paper, which is open to anyone who lives or works in Hackney. You can help us financially, even if you can't spare us the time, by sending us a donation or taking out a subscription or making a sustaining banker's order out to our Capital Fund. Please fill in the form below.

BANKERS ORDER

To _____ Bank Ltd

_____(branch address)

Please pay the Cooperative Bank Ltd, 78 Cornhill, London EC3 (08-02-28) for the Deposit Account Credit of Hackney People's Press Capital Fund A/C no 5008003850 the sum of £ _____ (figs) _____ pounds (words)

now and every month/quarter (please delete which non-applicable) until countermanded by me in writing.

Payments to commence on the _____ day of _____ 1978.

Please debit my/our account no _____ accordingly.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS, c/o 136 KINGSLAND HIGH STREET, LONDON E8, and NOT to your bank.

Dear HPP, I think that what you are doing is wonderful. Here is a donation of _____ to your Capital Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

I would like a subscription to Hackney People's Press. I enclose a cheque for £2.00 for the next twelve issues, delivered postfree to my door.

Name _____

Address _____

BRICK LANE

contd. from p.1

Old Street station was closed, however, to stop them all pouring onto the same trains together, but there was apparently a disturbance later at Monument station when a bunch of thugs attacked some bystanders.

Meanwhile the original anti-fascist demonstrators dispersed, some home and some to Brixton for the Carnival there, where they arrived in a slightly dispirited and bitter mood but eventually had a good time. Others stayed around Shoreditch and met some of the two thousand or so reinforcements who arrived in response to the appeals at the Carnival.

What happens now?

Despite the success of the Carnival, where 100,000 people had an anti-racist afternoon of fun at Brockwell Park, the fascists were able to hold a big march for the first time since Lewisham in August last year. With better organisation by the anti-fascists, it should have been possible to stop the march. As it was, the Front deliberately chose to march on the day they knew that 100,000 Anti-Nazi League supporters would be in Brixton. Thus it is crucial that the next time they intend to march, they are effectively opposed from the start.